

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-30 were previously pending in the application. Claims 1-18, 27, and 28 were withdrawn. Claims 1 to 18, 20, and 27-28 have been canceled. New claims 31 to 39 have been added. Claims 19, 25 and 26 herewith is amended. Claims presently active are claims 19, 21 to 26, and 29 to 39. Favorable reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim 19 has been amended to recite that wherein the particles are employed in an amount of 30-50% by volume in feedstock for the permeable microvoided sheet prior to extrusion and microvoiding. Claim 19 has also been amended to recite that the sheet is stretched biaxially in which both draw ratios in the longitudinal and transverse directions are in the range of 2 to 5 times and the area ratio between the non-stretched sheet and the biaxially stretched film is in the range of 9 to 20 times. Support for these amendments is to be found on page 11, lines 22 to 24, page 12, lines 22 to 25, and original claim 25. Claim 19 has also been amended to require that the film of polylactic-acid-based material has a total absorbent capacity of at least about 14 cc/m² as supported by original claim 1.

The Examiner's attention is drawn to US Patent No. 5,405,887 cited in Applicants' IDS of November 26, 2003. This patent corresponds to EP 0510 998 B1 to Morita et al. cited in Applicants co-filed SN 10/722,886. This patent discloses an extruded, voided film comprising a polylactic-acid-based material.

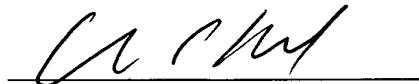
Morita et al. fail to disclose a film that has a total absorbent capacity of at least about 14 cc/m². Applicants have found that such a film requires biaxial stretching at high loadings of void initiators. The Examples of Morita et al., therefore, fail to meet the limitations of the present claims. It is believed that one reason for this difference is that Morita et al. is directed to a leakproof material that can be used in diapers and the like, whereas the present invention is directed to a material that can be used in inkjet printing that is rapidly permeable to liquid inks.

Applicants have reviewed the prior art made of record and believe that singly or in any suitable combination, they do not render Applicants' claimed invention unpatentable.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendment, the claims are now believed allowable and such favorable action is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

Respectfully submitted,



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